

MONTANA BOARD OF HORSE RACING MEETING  
1:00 P.M., November 13, 2009  
MONTANA EXPOPARK, GREAT FALLS, MT

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Al Carruthers	Chairman	John Ostlund	Board Member
Topper Tracy	Vice Chairman	Carol Lambert	Board Member
Susan Egbert	Board Member	Mike Tatsey	Board Member
Sue Austin	Board Member		
Ryan Sherman	Executive Secretary	Sherry Meador	Legal Counsel

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: Bill Schmitt, Lisa Bracco, Bill Salina, Joe Briggs, Joe McCracken, Dale Hillyard, Dick Forster, Pam Forster, Earl Fowler, Phyllis Tryon, Ben Carlson, Lou Wjoiechowski, Eric Spector.

CALLED TO ORDER: Chairman Carruthers called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm

MINUTES: Member Tracy moved to approve October 10<sup>th</sup> minutes. Member Egbert seconded the motion. Motion passed

NEW BUSINESS:

A. 2010 Date Hearing

1. Miles City -- Miles City race dates for the 2010 racing season were approved by the Montana Board of Horse Racing for May 9, 14, 15 and 16. Trials for stakes races will be held May 9.
2. Great Falls -- Both Montana ExpoPark (County fairgrounds) and Montana Downs requested to reserve race dates for Great Falls pending a signed contract between the two entities. Should Montana Downs not finalize a race contract for Great Falls, the fairgrounds would still have the dates reserved and an option to conduct live racing. Approved dates for Great Falls are July 23, 24, 25, 30, 31 and August 1. The last three days of racing coincide with the first weekend of the State Fair at the ExpoPark Fairgrounds. The dates include one more live race day than was held last season.
3. Yellowstone Downs in Billings requested 8 live days of racing over August 28, 29 and September 5, 6, 11, 12, 18 and 19, with an option to move live racing one week ahead or one week behind. All dates are Saturdays and Sundays except for Labor Day Sunday and Monday on September 5 and 6. The dates were approved with the option to shift weekends ahead or behind.
4. Other track Applications -- Eric Spector, representing Montana Downs and Montana Entertainment (current simulcast license holder in Montana), reported that he sent a letter of intent to Missoula to conduct live racing at the fairgrounds there, but the board was not receptive towards live horse racing. The Kalispell Fair Board was not receptive, as well.

DISCUSSION OF DATES/TRAINING: Horsemen asked the Board if there was any possibility that live racing in Montana could have a continuous circuit to keep horses in training and in the state. As it stands, the proposed dates show a huge gap between Miles City and Great Falls dates, and again a significant gap between dates for Great Falls and Billings.

The Board has no immediate solution to the situation. However, Lethbridge has live racing from their opening day on Kentucky Derby Day through the July 4. They again have racing from Labor Day until Breeders' Cup Day. Their dates offer some continuity for horsemen in Montana who may be interested in racing in Lethbridge.

Another horseman asked if there was any proposal for spring training in Great Falls. Representatives for Montana ExpoPark said that matter was still under discussion with Montana Downs. Spector's application, however, stated Montana Downs would not have any spring training. Racing Director for Yellowstone Downs in Billings, Ben Carlson, said the track in Billings is planning on opening for spring training on April 1.

ExpoPark representatives queried the local horsemen as to how many horses would come to train in Great Falls. HBPA representative Dick Forster said he thought up to 75 head could be expected. Someone said a minimum of 50 to 60 would be on grounds.

Erik Spector explained that costs remain similar whether there are fewer or more horses training, therefore more horses are preferred. He questioned how many horses would actually show, and whether or not those horses would remain to race at the meet.

- B. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF REVISED INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WITH MONTANA LOTTERY: Sherry Meador reported on the revisions for the IA with Montana Lottery and the memo that will be presented to the Legislative Audit Committee on behalf of the MBHR. The memo states that the Board will revise its agreement with ML and will request an attorney general's opinion on the issue of whether or not the game as delivered by ML is a sports pool. Member Egbert moved that the Board approve the revised IA with Montana Lottery and memo to the Legislative Audit Committee. Member Austin seconded it. Motion passed.
- C. RACING BUDGET AND 2010 FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS: A brief discussion took place as to SB 65 and HB 616, which explain how simulcast funds and Advanced Deposit Wagering funds are dispersed to tracks. Last year, the Board picked up jockey insurance for the tracks and hopes to do the same this year.

Montana bred and owner bonuses were \$8200 this year, which is double from the previous year. The Board informed horsemen that checks should be received for the awards within the week and were coming from the Department of Livestock.

The Budget for the Board of Horse Racing was reviewed and comments were received from the board members. Executive Secretary Ryan Sherman said he will submit a budget for the board on a monthly basis. Board Chair Al Carruthers requested that the budget include a breakdown of simulcast revenues by site.

A horseman asked if money accrued for a track for the next racing season could be used as emergency funds for the current season. Sherman said yes, with a request proposed for those funds.

- D. SIMULCAST LICENSE APPLICATION UPDATES: Next on the agenda was a discussion of the Simulcast License applications for the state. The current license is valid through December 31, and two parties are requesting a license to administer simulcasting in the state for 2010.

Legal counsel Sherry Meador explained that if both parties agree to waive the hearing process, the matter can be addressed directly before the Board of Horse Racing. However, both parties must agree. As of this date, Midland Horse Racing agreed to waive a hearing. Montana Downs had just received notice of the conflict and had not yet made a decision as to a hearing. Member Ostlund moved that the Board engage a hearing examiner and set date for hearing. Member Austin seconded it. Motion passed. The Board will move forward with the hearing process.

There is a new simulcast site in Butte at the Ten Pin.

OTHER BUSINESS: Ryan reported that he attended the AQHA conference where Mary Kyler earned the Millie Vessels award for Outstanding Quarter Horse Racing Women of the Year by AQHA. He also reported that Los Alamitos was in discussions about developing a \$25,000 race for 2 yr olds and futurity winners from Montana considered. There will be three futurities in Montana.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Racing veterinarian Kelly Manzer inquired if the Board was going to review the Rule Book. The Board said yes. Meador explained that it would be helpful to have any draft rule changes accomplished by 60 days before the first race day in the state, in order to comply with the rules for conducting live meets.

Phyllis Tryon reported that she was starting a racing web site with State information and promotional activities. It will include articles on Montana people and Montana horses. She also established a facebook page and Wikipedia page to connect to the site.

It was announced that a local horsewoman, Horsemen asked Erik Spector if he knew if Boise was going to conduct a live race meet this year and what was happening with Wyoming Downs. Spector said the meets were tied in a circuit but that nothing was definite at the moment. Contracts have not been signed.

A horsemen's membership group has formed in Idaho named Intermountain Horse Racing Association, which is formed to promote horse racing. Spector said Montana horsemen may find the group valuable.

Member Austin moved that the meeting be adjourned. Member Egbert seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

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Signature

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Date